

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 11-21 with the following paragraph:

The occlusion device may be deployed in the LAA through percutaneous transcatheter delivery or open heart surgery. Preferably, the device is delivered via catheter because it is a less risky, less invasive procedure. To deliver the device to the LAA via catheter, a catheter may be inserted into a patient's vasculature and advanced into the right atrium 12. A needle may then be advanced through the catheter and used to puncture the atrial septal wall 24 so that the catheter may be passed into the left atrium ~~12~~ 14. If a defect in the atrial septal wall exists 24, such as an atrial septal defect, the catheter may be passed through the defect, eliminating the need to puncture the atrial septal wall 24. After the catheter is passed through the atrial septal wall 24, the catheter is advanced to the left atrium 14. The occlusion device may then be deployed via the catheter into the LAA.